



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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LANDINGS BY FISHING VESSELS AT BOSTON, GLOUCESTER, AND PORTLAND DURING MAY

Although now settled, a labor dispute which caused many of the large otter trawl vessels to remain inactive in May was chiefly responsible for the big discrepancy between the amount of fish landed and the price brought during the month at the three ports of Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine, compared with like periods, according to a statistical report received today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes from the Division of Fishery Industries of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Landings at these three ports in May amounted to 22,418,000 pounds--spread among 23 classifications--valued at \$671,000. Compared with a catch of 39,196,000 pounds for the same period of 1939, this represents a decrease of nearly 17 million pounds in volume and approximately \$71,000 in value. Average price per pound of all species landed during May 1940 amounted to approximately 3 cents. For the same month in 1939 the average price per pound was 1.9 cents.

The strike was localized in Boston; its effect, however, is reflected as well in the landings at the other two ports. This is indicated by the fact that while the total landings at the three ports for the 5-month period ending with May 1940, amounting to 115 million pounds, are approximately 39 million pounds short of the total volume for the same period in 1939, the decrease in value amounts to only \$138,000.

Boston landings for May 1940 were 13.8 million pounds, valued at \$491,445. For the same period last year, the catch amounted to 26.9 million pounds, worth \$549,845.

Most abundant species landed at Boston during May included: large haddock (6.3 million pounds, valued at \$236,000); scrod haddock (2.2 million pounds, worth \$71,000); and large cod (1.3 million pounds, valued at \$42,000).

At Gloucester, the month's catch amounted to 7.4 million pounds, valued at \$155,000 compared with 8.7 million pounds, worth \$122,000, for the same month last year. Rosefish landings of 4.5 million pounds, valued at \$73,000, predominated. Large cod (749,000 pounds at \$26,000) came second, with 693,000 pounds of large haddock, worth \$22,000, in third place.

The May 1940 catch landed at Portland totalled 1.2 million pounds, valued at \$24,000. For the same month last year the catch amounted to 3.7 million pounds, worth \$71,000. Rosefish led the 1940 catch worth 518,000 pounds, valued at approximately \$6,600.

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